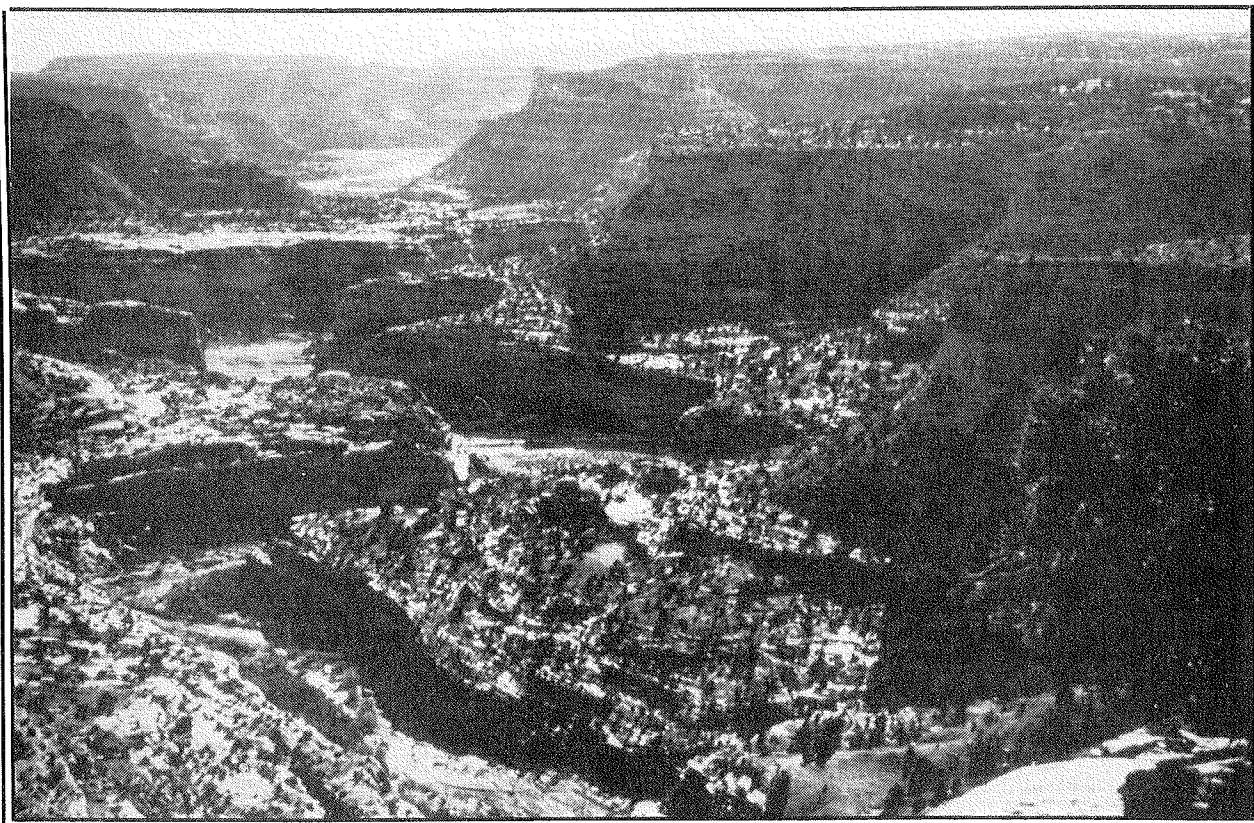


# Sids Mountain WSA



# SID'S MOUNTAIN / SID'S CABIN WSA

R. 9 E.

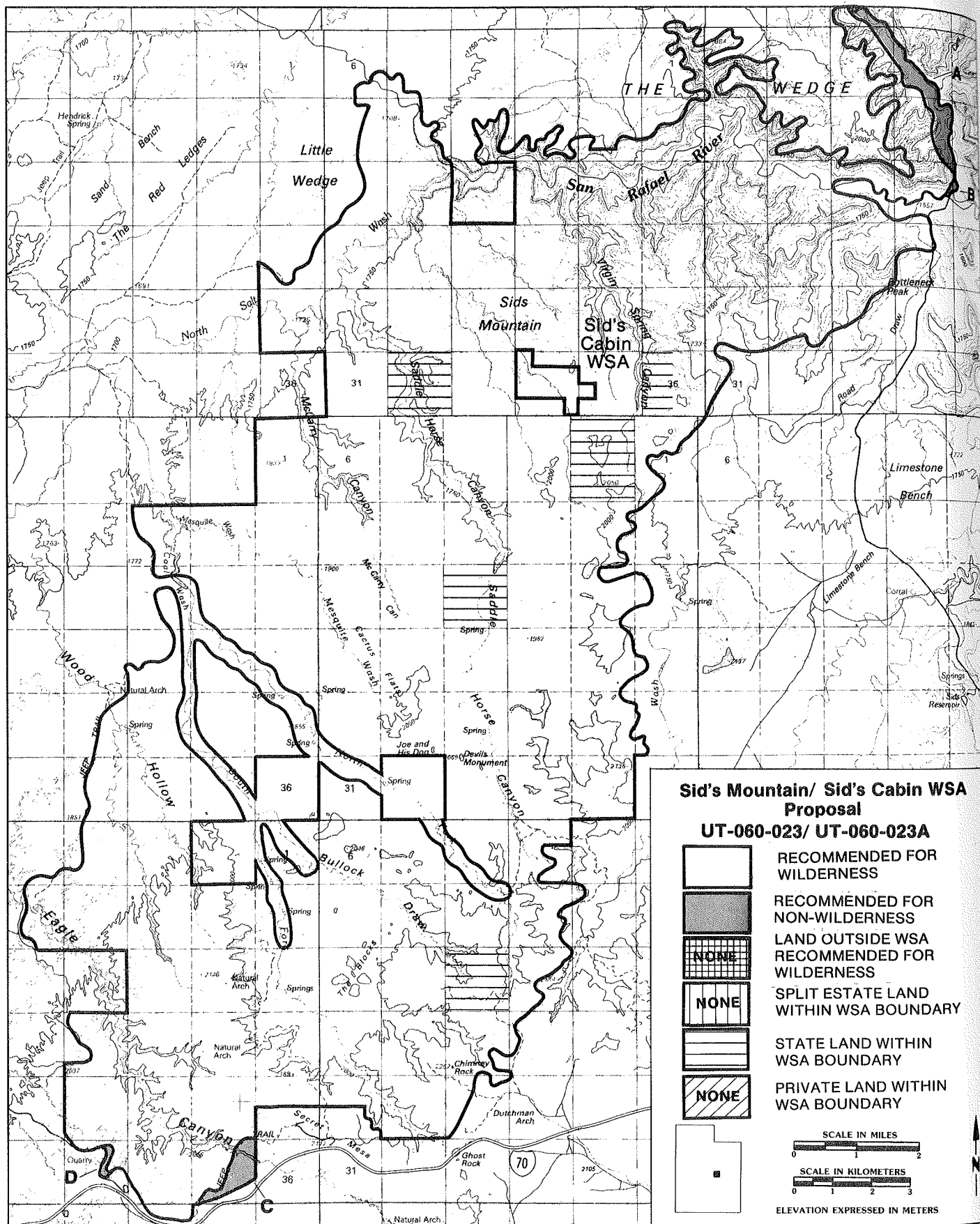
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R. 11 E.



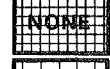



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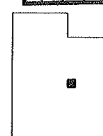
T. 21 S.

T. 22 S.



## Sid's Mountain/ Sid's Cabin WSA Proposal UT-060-023/ UT-060-023A

-  RECOMMENDED FOR WILDERNESS
-  RECOMMENDED FOR NON-WILDERNESS
-  LAND OUTSIDE WSA RECOMMENDED FOR WILDERNESS
-  SPLIT ESTATE LAND WITHIN WSA BOUNDARY
-  STATE LAND WITHIN WSA BOUNDARY
-  PRIVATE LAND WITHIN WSA BOUNDARY



SCALE IN MILES  
0 1 2

SCALE IN KILOMETERS  
0 1 2 3

ELEVATION EXPRESSED IN METERS

# **SIDS MOUNTAIN/SIDS CABIN WILDERNESS STUDY AREA**

## **1. THE STUDY AREA: 80,970 acres**

The Sids Mountain Wilderness Study Area (WSA) (UT-060-023) is in Emery County. The southern end of the WSA is about 48 miles west of Green River, Utah (population 1,048). The study area is about 22 miles long, from north to south, and 8 miles across, from east to west. The WSA is north of Interstate Highway 70 (I-70) and adjoins it at one point on the south. The study area is adjacent to the Mexican Mountain WSA (UT-060-054) on the northeast and is north of the Devils Canyon WSA (UT-060-025).

The northern boundary generally follows the north rim of the San Rafael River; the eastern boundary follows Buckhorn Draw and the rugged terrain defining Sids Mountain; I-70 and section lines form the southern boundary; the western boundary follows jeep roads and section lines (see Map).

BLM acquired 440 acres of land, including the remains of a ranch, in the north-central portion of the WSA. This parcel of land was referred to as the Sids Cabin WSA (UT-060-023A).

**TABLE 1  
LAND STATUS AND ACREAGE SUMMARY IN THE STUDY AREA\***

<b>WITHIN THE WSA</b>	<b>ACRES</b>
BLM (surface and subsurface)	80,970
Split-Estate (BLM surface only)	0
In-holdings (State, Private)	5,031
<b>Total</b>	<b>86,001</b>
<b>WITHIN THE RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS BOUNDARY</b>	
BLM (within the WSA)	80,084
BLM (outside the WSA)	0
Split-Estate (within the WSA)	0
Split-Estate (outside the WSA)	0
<b>Total BLM land recommended for wilderness</b>	<b>80,084</b>
In-holdings (State, private)	3,111
<b>WITHIN THE AREA NOT RECOMMENDED FOR WILDERNESS</b>	
BLM	886
Split-Estate	0
<b>Total BLM land not recommended for wilderness</b>	<b>886</b>
In-holdings (State, Private)	1,920

Source: BLM File Data

\* The Appendix is a detailed table of in-holdings included within the portion of the WSA recommended for designation.

## SIDS MOUNTAIN/SIDS CABIN WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

Because the 440-acre parcel of land is within the WSA and is physically identical it has been included in the Sids Mountain/Sids Cabin WSA. For ease of reference, the study area is referred to as the Sids Mountain WSA.

The combined WSA contains 80,970 acres of public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Eight sections of State land (5,031 acres) are in the WSA, five sections (3,111 acres) are in the portion recommended for wilderness designation (see Table 1).

The study area includes the northwestern portion of the San Rafael Swell, a distinctive upfold in central Utah. The WSA is characterized by an intricate canyon system which drains northward into the San Rafael River in the extreme northern portion of the WSA. The canyons typically have massive sandstone walls, winding routes, and numerous small tributary canyons. Above and between the canyons are flat to hilly grass parks. The western portion of the WSA is rough badlands terrain of colorful, eroded soils, cliffs, and small mesas.

Elevations in the WSA range from 5,100 feet on the San Rafael River to 6,800 feet in the southern portion of the WSA. Pinyon-juniper woodland is the dominant vegetation in about 90 percent of the WSA. Desert shrub predominates in the lower elevations and on rocky slopes.

The WSA was studied under Sections 202 and 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) and was included in the Utah BLM Statewide Wilderness Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) finalized in November 1990. Three alternatives were analyzed in the EIS: a partial wilderness alternative, where 80,084 acres of public land would be designated as wilderness and the remaining 886 acres would be released for uses other than wilderness, which is the recommendation in this report; a no wilderness (no action) alternative; and an all wilderness alternative.

Subsequent to publication of the Utah BLM Statewide Wilderness Final EIS, the Utah State Director approved the San Rafael Resource Area Resource Management Plan (RMP). The plan includes 67,680

acres of the Sids Mountain WSA in the Sids Mountain, San Rafael Canyon (upper portion), and Interstate 70 (I-70) Scenic Corridor Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) to protect scenic values. Special management requirements now in effect within the San Rafael Canyon ACEC (along the San Rafael River) include closure to off-highway vehicle (OHV) use, closure to oil and gas leasing, proposed withdrawal from locatable mineral entry, and management of the area to meet Class I visual resource management (VRM) guidelines, where consistent with valid existing rights. Special management requirements within the Sids Mountain and I-70 Scenic Corridor ACECs limit OHVs to designated roads and trails. However, since all of the San Rafael Canyon ACEC and the northern part of the Sids Mountain ACEC have been identified as "primitive" in the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) classification system (ROS-P), the northern half of the WSA is now closed to OHV use, in order to manage for ROS-P class.

### 2. RECOMMENDATION AND RATIONALE:

80,084 acres

(recommended for wilderness)

886 acres

(not recommended for wilderness)

The recommendation for this WSA is to designate 80,084 acres as wilderness and to release the remaining 886 acres for uses other than wilderness. Designation of the entire area is considered to be the environmentally preferable alternative as it would result in the least change from the natural environment over the long term. The alternative selected, however, would be implemented in a manner which would utilize all practical means to avoid or minimize adverse environmental impacts. The recommendation will further apply to any additional in-holding acreage acquired through purchase or exchange with willing owners. The Appendix lists all in-holdings and provides additional information on acquisition.

All of the area that is recommended for wilderness designation meets the naturalness criterion, has outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation, and almost all of the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude. Archaeolo-

## SIDS MOUNTAIN/SIDS CABIN WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

gical, geological, scenic, historic, ecologic, and wildlife values and features are exceptional. Habitat for 9 sensitive and endangered plant species is within the recommended portion of the WSA.

The water of the San Rafael River is not fully appropriated. Therefore, conflict over water rights could ensue from wilderness designation. Additionally, the BLM notes that designation of the WSA could result in restrictions on future water consumptive developments on the river and its tributaries upstream of the WSA, with resultant impacts on the economy of Emery County. Because of the uncertain nature of the impacts, BLM recommends that a portion of the WSA be designated wilderness with special provisions for protection of potential upstream water uses.

There is high potential for moderate-sized uranium/vanadium deposits. However, these would probably be subsurface and recovery costs would be high. Uranium also may be found in the same geologic formations elsewhere in the vicinity and the Sids Mountain area is not essential to supply market needs for uranium.

Wilderness would take precedence over OHV use except in the Coal Wash, Bullock Draw, and Buckhorn Draw areas, which are excluded from the recommended area. Almost all of the area recommended for wilderness designation is in the Sids Mountain, San Rafael Canyon, and I-70 Scenic Corridor ACECs and ROS-P class where restrictions on OHVs and mineral and energy exploration and production would continue to be administratively applied if the area is released from wilderness consideration and protection of wilderness characteristics is not a management objective. Additional locations are also available elsewhere in the vicinity. Wilderness designation of the recommended portion of the WSA would therefore not significantly constrain vehicular recreation in the area. No conflicts exist with other resource uses.

The North and South Forks of Coal Wash and parts of Bullock Draw (see Map) are not recommended for wilderness because of their traditional use as vehicular

travel routes. This would divide the proposed area into two sections, but both are sufficiently large to maintain wilderness values. OHV use can be confined to the two washes, where evidence of such use would be removed by normal seasonal stream runoff.

A small area (Area C) on the southern edge of the WSA would not be included as wilderness under this recommendation because of the influence of sights and sounds from the nearby I-70. A small area (Area A) in Buckhorn Draw is also excluded from the recommendation because of low wilderness values and the influence of nearby vehicular traffic and recreation use.

The BLM recommends that the boundary be set back from county roads in two areas (Areas B and D) to allow for road maintenance and traditional uses of camping and vehicle traffic. The boundary at Area B should be set back approximately 100 feet to the bottom of the cliff. The boundary at Area D should be set back approximately 100 feet to the rim of the canyon.

### 3. CRITERIA CONSIDERED IN DEVELOPING THE WILDERNESS RECOMMENDATION

#### Wilderness Characteristics

##### A. Naturalness

Naturalness is defined as an attribute in which the evidence of man is substantially unnoticeable to the average visitor and where minor imprints of man exhibit no cumulative impact that is substantially noticeable.

All human imprints combined (except for Sids Cabin and the travel route into Eagle Canyon) cover approximately 5 percent (4,000 acres) of the WSA, but are considered substantially unnoticeable. The route into Eagle Canyon (426 acres) and Sids Cabin (1 acre) are substantially noticeable and do not meet the naturalness criterion. The remainder of the WSA (76,543 acres) is natural and considered unspoiled in character.

The major imprints of man were excluded from the WSA by boundary determination during the BLM Intensive Wilderness Inventory. Imprints that remain are a

## SIDS MOUNTAIN/SIDS CABIN WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

stock pond and associated way, OHV trails, three mine portals, a 2-mile fence, about 19 miles of OHV tracks in four wash bottoms, approximately 8 miles of way, and some historical structures in the Sids Cabin area. These imprints occurred before the passage of FLPMA, unless otherwise noted.

The stock pond and the associated way along the WSA's western boundary are used lightly and are not a substantially noticeable impact.

Buckhorn Draw, a popular and well traveled canyon, is used heavily for vehicular camping and OHV activities. Along the northeastern boundary of the WSA are vehicular camping areas and associated OHV trails. Trash and fire rings accumulate during the spring months, when use is heavy.

Two mine shafts are in the northeastern part of the WSA along Cane Wash. Another shaft is beside the San Rafael River in the northwestern part of the WSA. All three mine shafts were excavated in the 1950s. Erosion and vegetation have made the shafts substantially unnoticeable.

In the Sids Cabin portion of the WSA, a historic cowboy cabin, small corrals, and several outbuildings are still noticeable.

Approximately 2 miles of fence made of cedar post, green steel posts, and barbed wire along the western border of the WSA, near Wood Hollow, is substantially unnoticeable.

A way near Mesquite Wash that extends about 1.5 miles into the WSA remains noticeable because of occasional vehicular use, mostly associated with livestock management and OHV recreation. Another way, about 3.5 miles long, into the Secret Mesa area is evident for approximately 2 miles from the WSA's southern boundary but is washed out in several places from there on. The route is kept evident by a small amount of intermittent use. West of the Secret Mesa way, another travel route into Eagle Canyon is approximately 3 miles long and is used by OHV operators and motorcyclists venturing into Eagle Canyon from Justensen Flats or from the Utah Department of Transportation main-

tenance shed near I-70. The route is very evident and is preserved by frequent vehicle use.

Since establishment of the WSA approximately 0.5 acre of the study area has been disturbed. This disturbance resulted from unauthorized mining claim assessment work near the junction of Moore Road and I-70. The area is being reclaimed to meet the nonimpairment standard.

### B. Solitude

Opportunities for solitude are outstanding in more than 95 percent of the WSA (76,970 acres). In about 5 percent of the WSA (4,000 acres), opportunities for solitude are not outstanding. These include the wide major wash bottoms, Buckhorn Canyon, and a portion of Eagle Canyon.

The many incised drainages allow travel through deep walled canyons where users experience a sense of isolation. The twisting character of the canyons and cliffs effectively screen lines of sight and suppress sounds. In some of the major drainages (e.g., Saddle Horse, Buckhorn, the North and South Forks of Coal Wash, and Bullock Draw), however, there are wide, straight reaches where sounds are not diminished. Intrusions and influences outside the WSA are rare within the canyons, except in the drainage of Eagle Canyon. There, within about a 0.25 mile of I-70 the sounds of heavy traffic can be heard. Beyond the travel route, in the drainage to the northwest, sounds are less evident and vehicles usually are not noticeable except on occasional days when OHV use is high.

The higher reaches of the WSA, consisting of rolling park lands and sandstone outcrops are partly open and provide vantage points to view the vast landscape. To the north and south are views of the varied canyons of the San Rafael drainage. The lower benchland of the Swell can be seen to the east, along with a panorama of Window Blind Peak, Assembly Hall Peak, Mexican Mountain, and the Book Cliffs. To the west, the scenery is dominated by mesas of red ledges, the colorful character of the desert badlands, and the distant Wasatch Plateau. Vegetation cover varies from



## SIDS MOUNTAIN/SIDS CABIN WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

grass to Ponderosa pine and does not effectively screen visitors. The terrain and the expansive view allow for separation and the feeling of seclusion.

From specific points within the WSA, several dirt roads, traffic on I-70 (adjacent to southern boundary), and the two powerplants in Huntington and Castle Dale can be seen. These outside sights do not necessarily intrude upon the visitor's solitude. Traffic sounds from I-70 can be heard from specific points within the WSA. The level and intensity, however, changes with weather conditions and the position of the listener. In general, opportunities for solitude are diminished in areas of the WSA that are open, in a direct line, and within 2 miles of the highway.

### C. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The Sids Mountain WSA offers outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation throughout all 80,970 acres. In the spring, high water levels in the San Rafael River provide an outstanding opportunity to float the scenic passage of Little Grand Canyon. During low water periods, hiking the canyon becomes a popular activity. Many organized groups take advantage of the recreation opportunity along the San Rafael River.

Outstanding opportunities for hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, rock scrambling, photography, art, and scenic viewing await explorers in most of the WSA. Many isolated springs and pools of water during parts of the year provide contrast to the general aridity of the WSA. The interesting nature of the rock outcrops and the canyons with their sheer walled cliffs, arches, knobs, pinnacles, twisted passages, and historic and prehistoric remnants, all contribute to a high quality recreational experience.

### D. Special Features

Special features found in the WSA include known and suspected sites of the Fremont Indian culture, historic travel and trade routes, and scenic values such as the colorful and dramatic rock forms in the intricate canyon drainages, arches, caves, pinnacles, buttes, and knobs. Geologic values include the sev-

eral formations exposed during the uplift of the San Rafael Swell. The entire WSA is rated as outstanding for scenic quality. Desert bighorn sheep, a species associated with wilderness, occurs within the WSA. Cougars may also occur within the WSA. Black-footed ferrets, bald eagles, and peregrine falcons, all listed as endangered species, and nine other animal species considered sensitive, may occur within the WSA. Three plant species, Maguire daisy, (Erigeron Maguirei var. maguirei), San Rafael cactus (Pediocactus despainii), and Wright fishhook cactus (Sclerocactus wrightiae), which are listed as endangered species, may be found near or within the WSA.

Also, two threatened species, the Jones cycladenia (Cycladenia humilis var. jonesii) and the Last Chance townsendia (Townsendia aprica), and four additional plant species that are considered sensitive, may occur in the WSA. Refer to Appendix 4 and the Affected Environment, Vegetation and Wildlife Including Special Status Species sections of the Utah BLM Statewide Wilderness Final EIS for additional information.

### Diversity in the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS)

#### A. Expanding the Diversity of Natural Systems and Features as Represented by Ecosystems

Wilderness designation of this WSA would add a potential natural vegetation (PNV) ecosystem not presently represented in the NWPS. PNV is the vegetative type that would eventually become climax vegetation if not altered by human interference, and is not necessarily the vegetation that is currently present in an area.

The WSA is in the Colorado Plateau Province/Ecoregion. The PNV in the WSA is galleta-threeawn shrubsteppe (28,625 acres) and pinyon-juniper woodland (36,239 acres). The galleta-threeawn shrubsteppe PNV is not represented at all in the NWPS, whereas the pinyon-juniper woodland PNV is widely represented in the NWPS, including one wilderness in Utah. This information is summarized in Table 2 from data compiled in December 1989.

# SIDS MOUNTAIN/SIDS CABIN WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

TABLE 2  
ECOSYSTEM REPRESENTATION

BAILEY-KUHLER CLASSIFICATION (PNV)	NWPS AREAS		OTHER BLM STUDIES	
	AREAS	ACRES	AREAS	ACRES
NATIONWIDE (COLORADO PLATEAU PROVINCE)				
Galleta-Threeawn Shrubsteppe	0	0	10	162,101
Juniper-Pinyon Woodland	11	1,401,745	84	2,107,766
UTAH (COLORADO PLATEAU PROVINCE)				
Galleta-Threeawn Shrubsteppe	0	0	10	162,101
Juniper-Pinyon Woodland	1	26,000	53	1,669,959

Source: BLM File Data.

TABLE 3  
WILDERNESS OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESIDENTS OF MAJOR POPULATION CENTERS

POPULATION CENTERS	NWPS AREAS		OTHER BLM STUDIES	
	AREAS	ACRES	AREAS	ACRES
Salt Lake City-Ogden, Utah	11	1,099,962	78	2,178,705
Provo-Orem, Utah	11	721,793	90	2,705,898

Source: BLM File Data.

## B. Assessing the Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive Recreation within a Days Driving Time (5 Hours) of Major Population Centers

The WSA is within a 5-hour drive of the Salt Lake City-Ogden, Utah and the Provo-Orem, Utah standard metropolitan statistical areas. Table 3 summarizes the number and acreage of designated wilderness and other BLM study areas within a 5-hour drive of these population center.

## C. Balancing the Geographic Distribution of Wilderness Areas

The Sids Mountain WSA could contribute significantly to balancing the geographic distribution of wilderness areas within the NWPS.

As of January 1987, the NWPS included 44 areas comprising 3,443,330 acres in Utah

and in Colorado, the adjacent state nearest the WSA.

A Sids Mountain Wilderness would supplement the NWPS in the Canyonlands Section of the Colorado Plateau where there are just two established wilderness areas totaling 70,751 acres. There are three designated wilderness areas within 100 miles of the WSA. To the northwest is the 28,000-acre Mt. Nebo Wilderness (U. S. Forest Service [FS]), to the southeast is the 45,000-acre Dark Canyon Wilderness (FS), and to the southwest is the 25,751-acre Box-Death Hollow Wilderness (FS).

Manageability (The area must be capable of being effectively managed to preserve its wilderness character.)

The portion of the WSA that is recommended for wilderness designation can be managed as wilderness to preserve values now present in the area, and to avoid



## SIDS MOUNTAIN/SIDS CABIN WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

conflicts with traditional OHV access routes. Current uses such as livestock grazing and maintenance of rangeland developments would continue with little or no effect on wilderness values. Even though there are 520 acres of post-FLPMA oil and gas leases in the WSA, the leases are subject to stipulations for protection of wilderness values and it is expected that they will expire and not be renewed.

There are 5,820 acres of mining claims in the recommended portion of the WSA. Because there is some potential for uranium deposits in the WSA, it is expected that a portion of these and future claims existing at the time of designation will be explored and possibly developed. It is projected that uranium exploration and development would disturb approximately 24 acres in the recommended portion of the WSA following wilderness designation, but this would not affect the overall manageability of the area. The presence of five in-held State sections (3,111 acres) scattered through the recommended part of the study area could create additional manageability problems because BLM would be required to provide reasonable access to State land and would have no control over activities on State land. Because there is some potential for uranium in the WSA, it is projected that in the foreseeable future uranium exploration and development on State land could reduce wilderness values in small portions of the recommended wilderness.

The 886 acre area not recommended for wilderness designation also could be managed as wilderness, although it would be more difficult to do so because additional roads leading to in-held State lands would actually be within the designated wilderness. In addition, OHV use would be administratively difficult to control in the area not recommended for wilderness because of ease of access and traditional vehicle use patterns.

### Energy and Mineral Resource Values

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the U.S. Bureau of Mines (USBM) prepared a mineral assessment report for the San Rafael Swell WSAs, including the Sids Mountain WSA (USGS Bulletin 1752, Susan Bartsch-Winkler, et al., N.D.). Commo-

dities evaluated include uranium, geothermal energy, gypsum, limestone, oil and gas, sand and gravel, sandstone, semiprecious gemstones, sulfur, petrified wood, and tar sand.

The mineral resource potential for localized, thin tar sands of variable grade in the WSA is high. The report indicates that within the Carmel Formation, there are inferred subeconomic resources of about 103 million tons of gypsum in the Sids Mountain WSA. The resource potential for gypsum on the surface is high in the western part of the Sids Mountain WSA. The WSA has high resource potential for uranium and vanadium in the Chinle Formation. The resource potential is moderate for oil and gas, geothermal energy, and for carbon dioxide and helium gases. The resource potential for metals other than uranium and vanadium, including gold and copper, is low. The resource potential for bentonite in the Chinle Formation on the surface and in the subsurface is low in the WSA.

### Impacts on Resources

The comparative impact table (Table 4) summarizes the effects on pertinent resources for alternatives considered including designation or nondesignation of the area as wilderness.

### Local Social and Economic Considerations

Over the long term, partial wilderness designation would cause a slight change in local economic conditions from those that would occur with the No Action/No Wilderness Alternative. Approximately 80 fewer jobs would be provided by locatable mineral activities with this alternative. This is equivalent to about 1.2 percent of the projected Emery County employment in the year 2010. Recreation-related expenditures could contribute up to \$80,360 annually to the local economy at the end of 30 years. Livestock grazing would continue to contribute \$48,500 annually in livestock sales and \$3,735 in Federal revenues. Up to \$47,290 in Federal and State oil and gas lease revenues would be foregone each year. Federal revenues related to commercial recreation would increase.

## SIDS MOUNTAIN/SIDS CABIN WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

An unquantified but potentially significant adverse effect on the Emery County economy could result from restrictions on consumptive use of water on the San Rafael River and its tributaries upstream of the WSA.

### Summary of WSA-Specific Comments

Public involvement has occurred throughout the wilderness review process. Comments received during the early stages of the EIS preparation were used to develop significant study issues and alternatives for the ultimate management of the WSA.

During formal public review of the Draft EIS, a total of 482 inputs specifically addressing this WSA were received from 1,176 commenters, including oral statements received at 17 public hearings on the EIS. Each letter or oral testimony was considered to be one input. Duplicate letters or oral statements by the same commenter were not counted as additional inputs or signatures. Each individual was credited with one signature or testimony regardless of the number of inputs. In general, 258 commenters supported wilderness designation for part or all of the WSA, while 471 commenters were opposed. Four hundred and forty-seven commenters addressed the relative merits of the EIS but took no formal position on wilderness designation.

Those favoring wilderness commented that the WSA contains wilderness values and that wilderness designation would protect the area from OHV use. The majority of those commenting in favor of wilderness were from urban Utah and other states. They also noted that the forest resource data presented in the Draft EIS were inadequate.

Those opposing wilderness were concerned that wilderness would preclude mineral exploration and development, restrict livestock management, and harm state and local economy. Concern was expressed that wilderness designation is not compatible with multiple use and that it would result in more restrictive Federal air quality designation for the region. Most of those opposing wilderness designation were from rural Utah.

One Federal agency, the USBM, expressed no opinion regarding wilderness designation but stated that BLM underestimated the petroleum potential of the WSA.

No comment letters were received on the Final EIS.

There are eight sections of State lands within the WSA. In commenting on the Draft EIS, the State of Utah expressed general opposition to wilderness designation, but did not take a definite position regarding this WSA. The State commented that the WSA has moderate wilderness values and a high degree of conflict compared with other WSAs in the San Rafael Swell Region. High quality wilderness values would benefit from wilderness management, but according to the State there are major conflicts with uranium and gypsum resources and OHV use for recreation and livestock management. The State noted that the partial wilderness alternative reduces recreation conflicts, but would not mitigate mineral or livestock conflicts, particularly in the southern one-third to one-half of the WSA. Specific State comments dealt with inadequacies of the geology section of the Draft EIS, the reported location of tar sand, the high potential for uranium, and impacts on cultural resources.

The Sids Mountain WSA is in Emery County. The Zoning Resolution of Emery County classified the WSA as potential future mining and grazing land. The Emery County Commission is opposed to wilderness designation for the WSA and has endorsed the Consolidated Local Government Response to Wilderness that opposes wilderness designation of BLM lands in Utah. In commenting on the Draft EIS, the Commission noted that wilderness designation would be in conflict with the County Master Plan. The Commission believes that the mineral potential of the WSA is higher than described in the EIS; that the State in-holdings and use of roads by local residents will compromise the manageability of the area; that the area is not roadless; and that wilderness designation would lead to more restrictive air quality standards and Federal Reserved Water Rights that would devastate the economy of Emery County.

# SIDS MOUNTAIN/SIDS CABIN WSA

Table 4  
Comparative Summary of Impacts by Alternatives<sup>a</sup>

Alternatives			
Issue Topic	Recommendation	No Action/No Wilderness	All Wilderness
	Partial Wilderness (80,084 Acres)		(80,970 Acres)
Impacts on Wilderness Values	Wilderness values would be protected in the designated area which is approximately 99 percent of the WSA. In the foreseeable future, naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation would be directly lost on 32 acres of the WSA because of uranium exploration and development of access to State in-held lands. Vehicular use of about 13 miles of existing ways, wash bottoms, and trails in the nondesignated area would detract from opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. Wildlife associated with wilderness would be disturbed and the potential for vandalism of cultural resources would increase. Class A scenery would be reduced in quality in disturbed and surrounding areas. Overall, opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation would be reduced in quality on up to 9,518 acres. Wild and scenic river values of the 18 miles of the San Rafael River in the WSA would receive additional protection.	Wilderness values would not be protected by wilderness designation and loss would occur as intrusions increase. In the foreseeable future, naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation would be directly lost on 83 acres of the WSA because of uranium exploration and development and development of access to in-held State lands. Vehicular use on designated roads and trails in the southern portion of the WSA and future mining and access roads to State in-holdings, would detract from naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. OHV use in the southern half of the WSA also would disturb wildlife, archaeological, and historic values. Overall, opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation would be indirectly reduced in quality on up to 16,194 acres. Class A scenery would be reduced in quality in the disturbed and surrounding areas. Wild and scenic river values of the 18 miles of the San Rafael River in the WSA would not receive additional protection.	Wilderness designation would preserve overall the wilderness values in the WSA. In the foreseeable future, naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation would be directly lost on 32 acres because of uranium exploration and development on invalid mining claims and development of access to in-held State lands. Opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation would be indirectly reduced in quality on up to an additional 3,240 acres. Special features would be preserved overall, although some Class A scenery could be reduced in quality in disturbed and surrounding areas. The wild and scenic river values of the 18 miles of the San Rafael River in the WSA would receive additional protection.
Impacts on Vegetation	Because 99 percent of the WSA would be designated wilderness and 32 acres of surface disturbance are projected, impacts on vegetation would be about the same as with the All Wilderness Alternative. Special status species could be affected by OHV use on 886 acres and monitoring and corrective measures may be necessary.	Vegetation types and populations of threatened, endangered, or other special status plant species would not be significantly affected because the 83 acres of projected surface disturbance would affect only 0.1 percent of the WSA. Impacts from OHV use in the southern portion of the WSA on 1,520 acres of access routes would be monitored and corrective measures taken should populations of threatened, endangered or other special status species be jeopardized.	Vegetation types and threatened, endangered, or other special status plant species would be protected by this alternative because projected disturbance would be reduced from 83 acres to 32 acres and OHV use would be eliminated. Appropriate inventories, clearances, and consultation with FWS would be completed prior to surface disturbance.

# SIDS MOUNTAIN/SIDS CABIN WSA

Table 4 (Continued)  
Comparative Summary of Impacts by Alternative

		Alternatives	
Issue Topic	Recommendation Partial Wilderness (80,084 Acres)	No Action/No Wilderness	
		All Wilderness (80,970 Acres)	
Impacts on Water Resources	Impacts would be about the same as with the All Wilderness Alternative because 99 percent of the WSA would be designated wilderness, the same amount of disturbance (32 acres) projected, and because the San Rafael River would flow through the designated area.	This alternative would not alter present or future water quality or uses. Only 0.1 percent (83 acres) of the WSA would be disturbed and there would be no restrictions on water uses imposed by wilderness management.	Water quality would receive additional protection because the potential for surface disturbance would be reduced. In the long term, future water diversions and new consumptive uses in the San Rafael River system upstream of the WSA may be restricted or precluded. Potential upstream uses include irrigation, cooling water for coal-fired generation of electricity, coal mining, and municipal use in Emery County.
Impacts on Mineral and Energy Exploration and Production	Impacts and conclusions for mineral and energy exploration and development would be the same as for the All Wilderness Alternative because 99 percent of the WSA, including potential uranium development areas would be designated wilderness.	Mineral and energy exploration and production would not be affected because mineral leasing, location of mining claims and mineral developments would not be restricted for the protection of wilderness values. Plans of operation would continue to be required on all valid claims within the Sids Mountain and Highway 1-70 Scenic Corridor ACECs. In the San Rafael Canyon (upper portion) ACEC, no oil and gas leases would be issued and the area would be proposed for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry.	Wilderness designation would limit potential exploration and development opportunities for locatable minerals known to occur in the WSA to those under valid mining claims at the time of designation. Although some production would occur, opportunities for production of an unknown portion of the uranium in the WSA would be foregone. No other significant locatable or leasable mineral production would be foregone because the probability of development is low even if the area is not designated wilderness.
Impacts on Wildlife Habitat and Populations	There would be no significant impacts to wildlife habitat or populations including threatened, endangered, or sensitive animal species due to locatable mineral development of new access. However, because OHVs would be used on 886 acres of ways and washes, big horn sheep, raptors and special status species could be affected. The potential for those impacts would be less than with the No Action/No Wilderness Alternative because 14 of the 27 miles of access routes would be closed to OHV use.	About 0.1 percent (83 acres) of the wildlife habitat in the WSA would be directly disturbed and OHV use would continue on 1,520 acres of ways and washes. Populations of bighorn sheep, raptors, and special status species could be affected. Monitoring and enforcement of protective measures may be necessary.	Approximately 0.04 percent (32 acres) of the wildlife habitat would be disturbed. Wilderness designation would protect all wildlife species and provide additional solitude over the short and long term.

# SIDS MOUNTAIN/SIDS CABIN WSA

Table 4 (Continued)  
Comparative Summary of Impacts by Alternative

Alternatives			
Issue Topic	Recommendation	No Action/No Wilderness	All Wilderness
	Partial Wilderness (80,084 Acres)	(80,970 Acres)	(80,970 Acres)
Impacts on Livestock Management	Levels of livestock use would not be affected. The closure of 13 miles of roads, trails, and ways would result in changes in livestock management and supervision as they are currently practiced in the WSA. Restrictions on vehicle use would increase costs and cause inconvenience to the 68 permittees whose livestock graze in the WSA.	Livestock management and grazing levels would not be affected because access, grazing levels and management techniques would remain as at present.	Levels of livestock use would not be affected. The closure of 27 miles of roads, trails, and ways would result in changes in livestock management and supervision as they are currently practiced in the WSA. Restrictions on vehicle use would increase costs and cause inconvenience to the 68 permittees whose livestock graze in the WSA.
Impacts on Cultural Resources	Archaeological sites, including all of the recorded sites, would receive protection from wilderness designation under this alternative. Sites in the nondesignated portion would continue to receive protection under existing laws because 99 percent of the WSA would be designated and disturbance would be about the same as with the All Wilderness Alternative. Impacts from direct disturbance would be about the same. Continued vehicular access to 886 acres may result in intentional or unintentional damage to archaeological sites.	Impacts due to surface disturbance are expected to be minimal because only 0.1 percent (83 acres) of the WSA would be disturbed and mitigation would be required. Intentional or unintentional damage to archaeological sites including the four known sites may occur due to continued vehicular access and OHV use on 1,520 acres of ways and wash bottoms in the southern portion of the WSA. Cultural resource management would continue without regard for protection of other wilderness values.	Little impact to cultural resources is expected under this alternative because potential disturbance would be reduced from 83 to 32 acres and OHV use would not be allowed. Cultural resource management may be limited in scope and execution in order to protect other wilderness values.

# SIDS MOUNTAIN/SIDS CABIN WSA

Table 4 (Continued)  
Comparative Summary of Impacts by Alternative

Recommendation		Alternatives	
Partial Wilderness		No Action/No Wilderness	
Issue Topic	(80,084 Acres)		All Wilderness (80,970 Acres)
Impacts on Recreation	<p>Primitive recreational opportunities would be directly reduced in quality on the 13 miles (886 acres) of ways, trails, and wash bottoms left for vehicular use in the nondesignated area and 32 acres in the designated area. An indirect reduction in quality of the primitive recreation opportunity would occur on up to 9,518 acres. Both primitive and motorized recreation use would increase, but motorized recreation use would increase to only about half of that expected with the No Action/No Wilderness Alternative. All 18 miles of the San Rafael River, a Wild and Scenic River Inventory Segment, would receive additional protection.</p>	<p>The quality of primitive recreation would be reduced in the southern portion of the WSA and areas where other surface-disturbing activities occur. This could occur directly on 83 acres and indirectly on up to 20 percent (16,194 acres) of the WSA. Both primitive and motorized recreational use would increase by 2 to 7 percent annually over the next 30 years, but vehicles would be restricted to about 27 miles (1,520 acres) of ways and wash bottoms. The northern portion of the WSA would continue to be closed to OHV use. Eighteen miles of the San Rafael River, a Wild and Scenic River Inventory Segment, would not receive additional protection.</p>	<p>Primitive recreational values in the WSA would be preserved overall, and primitive use would increase at a rate of 2 to 7 percent annually over the next 30 years. The quality of the primitive recreational opportunity would be directly reduced on 0.04 percent (32 acres) of the WSA and indirectly reduced on up to an additional 4 percent (3,240 acres) of the WSA. Up to 4,400 visitor days of future annual motorized recreational use that could occur by the year 2020 would be precluded. Because about 20 percent of the existing recreational use is based on vehicular access, overall recreational use would temporarily decline following wilderness designation. The 18 miles of the San Rafael River, a Wild and Scenic River Inventory Segment, would receive additional protection.</p>
Impacts on Economic Conditions	<p>Over the long term, partial wilderness designation would cause a slight change in local economic conditions from those that would occur with the No Action/No Wilderness Alternative. Approximately 80 fewer jobs would be provided by locatable mineral activities with this alternative. This is equivalent to about 1.2 percent of the projected Emery County employment in the year 2010. Recreation-related expenditures could contribute up to \$80,360 annually to the local economy at the end of 30 years. Livestock grazing would continue to contribute \$48,500 annually in livestock sales and \$3,735 in Federal revenues. Up to \$47,290 in Federal and State oil and gas lease revenues would be foregone each year. Federal revenues related to commercial recreation would increase. Impacts on the local economy from restrictions on consumptive water use on the San Rafael River would be the same as described for the All Wilderness Alternative.</p>	<p>Present economic trends would not be affected. Locatable mineral activity could increase employment in Emery County by 2.4 percent (160 jobs) by the year 2010. Local recreation-related expenditures would contribute up to \$89,380 annually to the local economy by the year 2020. Livestock grazing would contribute \$48,500 annually in livestock sales and \$3,735 in Federal revenues. Present and future oil and gas leases could contribute up to \$48,640 annually in Federal and State lease revenues. Federal revenues related to commercial recreation would increase.</p>	<p>Over the long term, wilderness designation would cause a slight change in local economic conditions from those that would occur with the No Action/No Wilderness Alternative. Up to 80 fewer jobs would be provided by locatable mineral activities with this alternative. Recreation-related expenditures could contribute up to \$71,340 annually to the local economy at the end of 30 years. Livestock grazing would continue to contribute \$48,500 annually in livestock sales and \$3,735 in Federal revenues. Up to \$48,640 in Federal and State oil and gas lease revenues would be foregone each year. Federal revenues related to commercial recreation would increase. An unquantified but potentially significant adverse effect on the Emery County economy could result from restrictions on consumptive use of water on the San Rafael River and its tributaries upstream of the WSA.</p>

<sup>a</sup> The BLM San Rafael RMP was approved following publication of the BLM Utah Statewide Wilderness EIS. The analysis of impacts summarized here has been modified to reflect the more restrictive resource management practices established by the RMP.



# SIDS MOUNTAIN/SIDS CABIN WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

Appendix  
Estimated Costs of Acquisition of Non-Federal Holdings Within Areas Recommended for Designation <sup>a</sup>

Legal Description (Prior to any Subdivision)	Total Acreage	Number of Owners (If Parcel has been subdivided)	Type of Ownership by Estate (Federal, State, Private, Other) (Surface Estate) (Subsurface Estate)	Presently Proposed for Acquisition (Yes, No)	Preferred Method of Acquisition (Purchase, Exchange, Other)	Estimated Cost of Acquisition (Land Costs)	Estimated Cost of Acquisition (Processing Costs)
T. 20 S., R. 10 E., Sec. 32	640.00		State	No	Exchange		\$2,000
T. 20 S., R. 10 E., Sec. 36, W1/2	320.00		State	No	Exchange		\$1,000
T. 21 S., R. 10 E., Sec. 2	871.44		State	No	Exchange		\$2,000
T. 21 S., R. 10 E., Sec. 16	640.00		State	No	Exchange		\$2,000
T. 22 S., R. 10 E., Sec. 16	640.00		State	No	Exchange		\$2,000

<sup>a</sup> The estimated costs listed in this appendix in no way represent a Federal appraised value of the land or mineral estate, but are rough estimates based on sales or exchanges of lands or mineral estates with similar characteristics to those included in the WSA. The estimates are for purposes of establishing a range of potential costs to the government of acquiring non-Federal holdings and in no way represent an offer to purchase or exchange at the cost estimate included in this appendix.